

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Reissue of:

Sanchez et al.

Patent No.: 5,635,235

Date of Patent: June 3, 1997

Serial No.:

For: METHODS FOR HANDLING MASA

Examiner: Milton I. Cano

Group Art Unit: 1761

Costa Mesa, California

September 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
SUBMITTED WITH CONTINUATION REISSUE APPLICATION

BOX REISSUE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before substantively reviewing the herein
filed continuation reissue application.

In the Specification

In the "Related U.S. Application Data" section, please insert - -This continuation
reissue application is a continuation of reissue application no. 09/325,122, which
application has been allowed and will soon issue as reissued patent no. RE37008. - -

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-37 without prejudice.

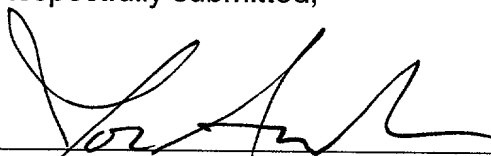
Remarks

The herein submitted continuation reissue application is being filed prior to the issuance of RE37008 which will soon result from the filing of the parent reissue application no. 09/325,122. The assignee intends to file a cross-reference to this continuation reissue application in reissued patent no. RE37008 by requesting a Certificate of Correction as suggested in MPEP 1451.

The accompanying specification and claims, submitted in column copy format, include Claims 38-57 that are comparable to Claims 15-20 of the original U.S. Patent No. 5,635,235. The primary difference is that the preamble of Claims 38-57 do not describe the hopper as having a "side wall" and a "bottom wall". Additionally, base claim 38 includes a "forcing" step but not a "removing gas bubbles" step, base claim 45 includes a "removing gas bubbles" step but not a "forcing" step, and base claim 52 includes both steps as set forth in original base Claim 15. Finally, Claims 38-57 now specify a "projection" rather than "projections".

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that a telephone conference would further this case in any way.

Respectfully submitted,



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